

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03800 162305Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 HA-05 SY-05 MCT-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /087 W
-----111445 171947Z /46

R 162100Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7469
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 3800

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, NU
SUBJECT: CHURCH REPORTS HARASSMENT

1. LA PRENSA REPORTS IT HAS RECEIVED A LETTER, SIGNED BY NINE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF ESTILI, IN WHICH THE CHURCH ALLEGES HARASSMENT--SOME OF IT BY THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN). FIVE SPECIFIC ALLEGED INCIDENTS ARE CITED.
2. IN THE FIRST INCIDENT, FATHER TEODORO CUSTER, WHO WORKS IN OCOTAL, REPORTEDLY WAS THE OBJECT OF AN ATTACK BY FERMIN ALBARENGA, ALLEGEDLY AN INFORMER FOR THE GN. ALBARENGA REPORTEDLY ATTEMPTED TO FORCIBLY ENTER CUSTER'S RESIDENCE AND FIRED SHOTS IN THE ATTEMPT.
3. IN THE SECOND INCIDENT, FATHER ALFREDO GUNDRUM, AN AMCIT SERVING IN JALAPA, SUFFERED A VISIT BY ELEMENTS OF THE GN WHO ALLEGEDLY SAID THEY HAD AN ARREST ORDER AND ATTEMPTED TO FORCIBLY ENTER HIS RESIDENCE ON 6 AUGUST. (NOTE: EMB WAS AWARE OF THIS INCIDENT. IT HAD BEEN REPORTED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANAGU 03800 162305Z

ONE OF THE CAPUCHIN FATHERS WHO HAD SPOKEN TO GUNDRUM BY PHONE. ORIGINALLY, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT GUNDRUM MIGHT BE IN PHYSICAL DANGER, BUT, BY THE FOLLOWING DAY, ALTHOUGH DETAILS REMAINED SKETCHY, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE INCIDENT WAS ENDED AND GUNDRUM WAS IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER EITHER OF ARREST OR ATTACK. END NOTE)

4. THE THIRD INCIDENT INVOLVED FATHER JULIO LOPEZ, SERVING IN EL CALVARIO. ALLEGEDLY, ON REPEATED OCCASIONS, LOPEZ HAS SUFFERED INSULTS BY GN ELEMENTS. ADDITIONALLY, PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN, HAVE FIRED SHOTS IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH DURING MASS AND THROWN BOMBS AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE FATHERS.

5. THE FOURTH INCIDENT INVOLVED FATHER EDUARDO MAJIA WHO WAS ARRESTED BY IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES AT LOS MANOS (ON THE HONDURAN BORDER) AND IMPRISONED IN OCOTAL. THE LETTER ALLEGES THAT MEJIA NEVER WAS INFORMED OF THE REASON FOR HIS DETENTION.

6. THE LAST INCIDENT INVOLVED MONSEIGNEUR JOSE DEL CARMEN SUAZO, PARSON OF SOMOTO, WAS TAKEN PRISONER BY ELEMENTS OF THE GN WHILE WITH SOME CAPESINOS AND, REPORTEDLY, WAS PRESENT WHILE TWO OF THE CAMPESINOS WERE BEATEN IN THE COMMAND POST. ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL REASON FOR THE CAPTURE WAS OFFERED, ON GN MEMBER ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT "THEY WERE COMPLYING WIT SUPERIOS ORDERS."

7. THE LETTER CONTINUES THAT ELEMENTS OF THE GN "DISRESPECTFULLY HAVE ENTERED CHURCHES IN OCOTAL AND THE CATHEDRAL IN ESTELI ARMED AND RECENTLY EXPLODED A BOMB." THE LETTER CONCLUDES, "WE DENOUNCE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANAGU 03800 162305Z

PROTEST THOSE PERSONS WHO DO NOT HAVE THE MINIMUM RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE, ALSO (WE PROTEST) TO THE AUTHORITIES WHO EXIST TO PRESERVE ORDER SO THAT, INSTEAD OF CREATING A CLIMATE OF SUSPICION AND LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PIOPLE, THEY WILL BE THE PROTECTORS OF THE TRANQUILITY TO WHICH EACH CITIZEN HAS A RIGHT."

8. COMMENT: THE IMPETUS FOR THE LETTER, COULD HAVE BEEN THE RECENT ISSUANCE OF THE TWO CHURCH STATEMENTS. ALL OF THESE ALLEGED INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN THE NORTHERN AREA OF THE COUNTRY WHERE, TRADITIONALLY, A MORE "FRONTIER-TYPE" APPROACH TO LAW AND ORDER EXISTS. THE EMB HAS INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF ONLY ONE INCIDENT AND, THEREFORE, CANNOT, AT THIS POINT, ADD MUCH LIGHT TO THEM. HOWEVER, INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE ABOVE CAN BE EXPECTED AS THE CHURCH TAKES AN INCREASINGLY STRONG STAND ON CURRENT EVENTS.
SOLAUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU03800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780336-1096
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780860/aaaabxmw.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d8f3f662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1727326
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHURCH REPORTS HARASSMENT
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d8f3f662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014